



Request for Qualifications

Pond Sculpture for Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park

Deadline to apply: August 15, 2022

www.childrengrove.org

Phase 2 Children's Grove: Pond Sculpture at Stephens Lake Park

Children's Grove, a non-profit, all volunteer organization in Columbia, Missouri, invites artists to apply for a public art project within a public park. Children's Grove seeks an artist to create a site-specific, mission-inspired, original outdoor artwork that will be installed in the center of a small pond within the boundaries of the Children's Grove garden on the northeast corner of Stephens Lake Park. Specifics about the pond size and depth are attached along with photos of the area. This park is a designated arboretum and a well-used Columbia park by all ages. The pond sculpture will be easily viewable from the walking path. Works in a variety of durable media and forms will be considered as long as the materials and design meet requirements for doing well in all Missouri seasons and Missouri weather events like high wind, hail, ice, heavy rains and repeated freeze/thaw cycles. The piece should be people-proof, sustainable with low maintenance, difficult to vandalize and cannot require a regular staff for care.

At this point, artists should submit qualifications only, along with any past work that you feel informs your on-line application. *We are not asking for design proposals until the artist is selected.

About the Children's Grove Mission

Children's Grove seeks to inspire a culture of kindness and to support the mental and emotional well-being of children, youth and young adults. Please see this link for the genesis of the Children's Grove, founded after the Sandy Hook school shooting tragedy, as a community commitment to the safety and well-being of our children and youth.

Read more about Children's Grove's history:

https://www.childrengrove.org/files/ugd/31eebb_3d0e98b3e15744e8a660e888b926a937.pdf

Visually the organization communicates its mission through public and landscape art. In 2014, Phase 1 of Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park was dedicated with the planting of 41 Butterfly Magnolias and Crabapple trees and the installation of an artisan butterfly bench. Other public art projects are attached in the photo section.

Phase 2 of the Grove is directly across the sidewalk from Phase 1. This area includes some very tall trees and a sweet drainage pond of which we speak. See attached visuals (Appendix A). We want this pond art installation to showcase the mission of kindness. Under the umbrella of kindness, other qualities also manifest, including compassion, cooperation, inclusivity and appreciation of our differences as well as kindness to our natural environment. We plan to use the area surrounding the pond to highlight nature's wisdom that can be applied to humanity.

Our goals for the sculpture are to distill our mission into a simple, gentle representation:

- Of kindness, well-being and positive mental and emotional health
- To contribute to an already beautiful natural setting to foster reflection and imagination
- To nurture our human relationship with all of the natural world and to find commonalities between the two

These goals can be met through representational or non-representational art.

Phase 2 will also include some beautiful signage in that pond area of which the artist should be aware of but not responsible for. With nature as our teacher, we seek to move the mind toward positive mental health by personification of natural elements that inform us of nature's storehouse of wisdom. Next to a large, rounded stone, you might find a sign that says "Stones teach us to wear away sharp edges". Next to a large sycamore, a sign might say "Trees teach us to bend in a storm" or "Leaves teach us to just let go". Personification is a tool to bring inanimate things to life so that the best parts of their nature can be tools to help us as humans survive and thrive. We see both the sculpture and the area surrounding the pond with its well-placed signage as nature's mini classroom for positive mental health.

The Budget

The budget for the site-specific public art has been established at \$20,000. That amount must include artist remuneration, materials, fabrication and shipping.

Installation costs will be handled by a separate fund and the artist will have professional input but not financial output.

Artist Eligibility

The project is open to all artists and artist teams, 18 years and older, who are legal residents of the United States. Professional artists with experience in the field of public art are encouraged to apply.

Artist Selection Process

Representatives from Children's Grove, the Office of Cultural Affairs and Columbia Parks and Recreation will review applications and choose finalists. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of artistic and technical merit, strength of past work, and alignment with the Children's Grove mission stressing kindness, compassion, inclusivity, appreciation of differences, and respect for one another and our natural world.

Though not required, relevant work in the field of public art is desirable as are collaborative experiences. The number of finalists is not pre-determined.

Finalists will be invited to interview with the project selection panel after the deadline date of August 15, 2022. Finalists will not be asked to develop design proposals for the interview, but should be prepared to discuss how they might approach the project. The selection panel will then notify the chosen artist to begin developing a proposal for the project. Up to three collaborative opportunities will be scheduled for design reviews. Once approved by the project selection panel, the design will be submitted to the city for final approval and acceptance.

Application Information

To be considered, submit the following via online form (<https://form.jotform.com/221558652047155>). *Hard copy applications will not be accepted.*

- Current resumé
- Contact information for two professional references
- A maximum of ten images of completed works or projects (submitted electronically) with accompanying annotated image list giving image

number, title of the work, medium, approximate dimensions, year of completion, project location, budget, commissioning agency and a brief description.

- A statement of interest, no more than 500 words, that outlines how you might approach this project if selected and what materials you might use. Do not include sketches, photos or a developed description of a possible installation, just the basic statement of interest.

Do not send any materials not specifically requested.

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted via online form by August 15, 2022 at 5 pm CST.

Submission Information

Access the online submission form: <https://form.jotform.com/221558652047155>

Inquiries

Children's Grove Arts Interest Group Project Co-Chairs:

- Joyce Smith – bpdesignjs@gmail.com
- Judith LeFevre – judithal@me.com

Terms and Conditions

This request for qualification (RFQ) does not commit Children's Grove to enter into an agreement with any applicant. Applicant agrees that all materials submitted become the property of Children's Grove and shall not be returned. The applicant shall retain all copyright in the examples of the past work he/she submits as part of the application process. The applicant certifies that the information contained in the application is true and correct.

Reservation of Rights

Children's Grove reserves the right at any time to request additional information from any participating artist for any reason and to accept or reject at any time prior to the commissioning of a work, any or all proposals and to advertise for new requests for qualifications.

Appendix A: Photos of Area for Installation



The sculpture will be maximally viewable from Side B where the pond is closest to the sidewalk.



View A: This is the sidewalk view from the west looking southeast toward the pond. It is surrounded by tall sycamores and other stately trees.



View B: To the south of the pond is a dogwood grove.



This is looking east to west from the sidewalk (SIDE B).



Photos of Other Children's Grove Visual Art Projects



Butterfly Bench at Children's Grove and 5 other sites



Kindness mural along the MKT Trail – "Kindness is the path that brings us all together."



LEFT: Kindness Trees at Stephens Lake Park and throughout Columbia – Butterfly Magnolias; RIGHT: Butterfly Mural – Downtown Columbia



Downtown Columbia Kindness Banners for Mental Health Month